

Today's Postbag

THE WEATHER

FORECAST: Fair; low in the

	A	B	C	D
Jerusalem	57	57	57	57
Tiberias	52	52	52	52
Haifa	55	55	55	55
Natanyah	56	56	56	56
Tel Aviv	54	54	54	54
Tel Aviv Port	53	53	53	53
Lydda Airport	52	52	52	52
Jerusalem	50	50	50	50
Bethlehem	48	48	48	48
Beit	47	47	47	47

(A) Sunday at 3 p.m. (B) Monday at 3 p.m. (C) Tuesday at 3 p.m. (D) Wednesday at 3 p.m.

3,000 IMMIGRANTS arrived in Israel during January, while another 3,000 are expected in February, the Jewish Agency announced yesterday.

A NEW RECORD has been announced by the Oron Phosphate Works with the output of 10,000 tons in January. Last January, 5,500 tons were produced.

COAL GATHERING on the Elat coast is now banned, the Ministry of Agriculture has announced, because visitors have done extensive damage to the beds.

THE FORTNIGHTLY cogoy went up to Mount Scopus yesterday accompanied by workers of the Hebrew University and Hadasah.

THE SECTION of the highway between the Nahal Falik Bridge and Ramat Tzion, south of Natanyah, will be used for Army athletic competitions from noon to 3 p.m. today. The public is requested to avoid using the road, if possible, during these hours.

AN ISRAELI BRANCH of the International Organization of Hotel and Restaurant Employees was recently opened in Tel Aviv. The Government Tourist Corporation has promised the organization help in its efforts to improve hotel service.

A BOY AND A GIRL, both aged 12, were taken into custody on Tuesday evening and then released in bond for sticking posters on houses without authorization. The posters called for the rise to power of "The followers of Jabotinsky."

MEIR MIZRAHI, 22, a lorry driver, escaped unhurt after he was thrown clear when his truck sank into a disused water cistern in the Kupat Holim yard in Safed yesterday. The truck sank under the weight of "The followers of Jabotinsky."

MIFALOT and Afak settlements, near Petah Tikva, have been united.

THE DEBON cooperative bakery in Beersheva was fined 120 sheqels yesterday by Magistrate Ben-Zion Aloni because a mouse had been found in one of its loaves. A member of the management was also fined 120.

U.S. May Sell Israel Fighters—Goldmann

American may possibly approve the sale of fighter planes to Israel to ally the fears of American Jewry of a surprise attack on Israel by the Arabs, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in New York, told the press yesterday in Jerusalem.

The State Department adopts the stand, Dr. Goldmann said, that Israel still has a marked superiority over the Arabs on land and sea but that the scales are weighted in the Arabs' favor in the air. The Department officials respect Israel's anxiety about a sudden air attack, but feel certain that no Arab power would dare attempt a land invasion. On all counts, Dr. Goldmann said, the end of the present talks between President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden, he added.

Dr. Goldmann warned especially against a responsible talk of a preventive war, and said that if Israel should be foolish enough to embark on such action, he is certain that the Security Council would immediately and actively intervene. The carefully weighed and wholly realistic speeches made in the Knesset recently by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister had produced a very favorable impression abroad.

Comptroller Reports On Gov't Companies

The Government invested 157,700 out of the total investment of 11,170,000 in the 36 Government companies reported on by the State Comptroller. The report was released by the Knesset Finance Committee earlier this week.

The Government participates in 99 different companies, including giants like the Dead Sea Works, Tahal, Mifal Hapayis, El Al, the Bank of Israel, the Agricultural Bank, Amidor and the Phosphate works. Out of these the 36 larger firms that cover approximately 90 per cent of the total investment.

According to the report the most successful enterprises are the financial ones, and they have proved to have a most solid influence on the economy. Almost equally successful are the trading companies such as Sholem and Dolek.

Considerable losses are reported from El Al and the Dead Sea Works.

The report does not discuss the management of the companies but gives a general survey of their activities over the past few years.

Amplifying System Brings Class To Child's Sick-Bed

BY CHARLES WEISS

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Nurit Marcus, 11, tier to her bed for four years because of infantile paralysis, now "attending" classes at the Brandeis elementary school in Herzlia without leaving her room. She is connected by telephone with a two-way microphone in the classroom, and can take part in class discussions, answer questions and even whisper answers to her classmates while lying in bed.

The first attempt at telephonic instruction in Israel was described to the Press yesterday in Jerusalem by Mrs. Helen Barth, Director of the Special Education Section of the Ministry of Education.

A year ago, Mr. Yehuda Richardson of New York City, an executive of the Special Education Department of the Executive Company, manufacturers of dictaphone and telephone equipment, he offered to donate one of his company's instruments for an experimental try-out in Israel. It consists of a classroom

microphone and amplifier, connected by ordinary telephone lines to a speaker-receiver apparatus at the bed-side of the child. Used with great success in the U.S., where thousands of handicapped children have benefited from it, the idea caught on here.

Mrs. Barth obtained the full cooperation of Mr. H. Ben-Nachman, Director-General of the Ministry of Posts, who is no less generous than the American firm, arranged for the trial installation in Herzlia and the use of the telephone line free of charge.

Two weeks ago, Nurit, who has been continuing her studies during the past two years with home lessons given by her teachers, tuned in for the first time to her old class. Though seated in body, she was very much present in spirit as the class held a gala "welcome back" party in her honor.

According to latest reports, Mrs. Barth said that her progress in her studies is entirely satisfactory.

Go-Slow Strike Of Citrus Loaders

Jerusalem Post Staff

HAIFA, Wednesday.—The citrus loaders today began a go-slow strike on fruit loading operations. The more than 200 men are striking to back their demand for 15 per cent income tax deduction from the bonuses they get for exceeding their norms, instead of the 40 per cent deduction the Treasury has ordered because the norms have not been officially recognized by the Productivity Institute.

Yesterday the men loaded over 75,000 cases but because of the slow-down it was expected that only about one-third that number would be loaded today. With 1,000 cases of fruit in the port this morning, and room for about 30,000 more, transport of fruit from the country may have to be curtailed tomorrow.

The fruit has been arriving at the rate of 60,000 cases daily.

The Port Workers Union which is backing the strike, stated today that the norms had been gradually raised each year. This year they were increased by five per cent to 2,750 cases per gang shift.

The Citrus Marketing Board has appealed to the Ministers of Finance and Labour to intervene immediately in the dispute so that it can make some attempt to fulfill its export commitments and prevent the overcrowding of storage space here with fruit which cannot be earning foreign currency. The Board estimates that the go-slow policy means that every day 40,000 fewer cases are being loaded.

More Milk From Fewer Cows

Milk production in 1955 increased by more than 10 per cent although the number of milch cows dropped by 2,000 to 37,000, it was announced yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The higher yield was the result of better attention to the cows, improved strains of cattle, as well as a considerable improvement in feeding.

Last year 70 per cent of the fodder was produced locally, while previously the larger part had to be imported.

IL500 Fine For 'Borrowing' Cement

TIBERIAS, Wednesday.—The manager of Solel Boneh in Kiryat Shimon, Avraham Dopeit, was found guilty today of stealing 100 sacks of cement from the company, and using them to build himself a house in Haifa.

Dopeit pleaded that he had merely borrowed the cement.

The Relieving President of the District Court, Judge Shalom Kassar, gave Dopeit a one-year sentence, suspended for three years, and fined him IL500, with the alternative of three months in jail. He also ordered Dopeit to return the cement to Solel Boneh.

The Judge acquitted him of a second charge of stealing 50 sacks of cement and selling them.

AIRCRAFT STOPPED LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday.—Flying contact with Europe was broken last night when a number of aircraft had to turn back to Athens because of electric storms. TWA and LAI planes due to land here were unable to by-pass the storms.

Contact was renewed this morning when the weather in the area improved.

U.S.-BRITAIN

(Continued from Page One)

For Western powers were agreed that "every effort should be made to decrease sources of misunderstanding between this area and the Western world."

There was agreement on the importance of the Baghdad pact to the security of the Middle East. "The U.S. Government," said the communiqué, "will continue to give such support to the purposes and aims of the pact, and observers will play a constructive part in the work of its committees."

In a single-paragraph reference to the Buraiki Oasis dispute between Britain and Saudi Arabia, the Communiqué said "we reviewed the situation in Arabia and the Persian Gulf with particular reference to current disputes and differences. We believe that these differences can be resolved through friendly discussion."

On atomic energy, the Communiqué said:

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to Itzhak Marcus on the passing away of his MOTHER

MIS FELLOW WORKERS

Trade Balance 20% Worse

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The adverse balance of trade jumped by almost 20 per cent in 1955 to stand at IL425m, according to data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Imports increased by IL170m, to IL425m, while exports remained almost static at just under IL150m.

Imports of food rose by IL15m, to IL137m. This is explained partly by stockpiling. There was a IL27m increase in IL27m in raw material imports. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured account for a IL20m increase to IL120m.

Export of foodstuffs shows a 13 per cent drop. This follows the smaller citrus crop in 1954/55. Finished articles increased by 13 per cent.

Solel Boneh Buys Half Share of Magen-Chatwood

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—Solel Boneh has bought at least half the shares of the Magen-Chatwood plant near Petah Tikva where many of the country's bus bodies are built. The shares will be purchased by one of its subsidiary companies, the Vulkan Foundry Works.

Mr. Hillel Dan, Director of Solel Boneh, told The Jerusalem Post that plans were being made for the expansion of the plant, but he declined to reveal any details.

The shares had been sought after by the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation, but the private holders decided to sell to Solel Boneh. Dr. S. Lifshitz, the main remaining shareholder, had proposed that Solel Boneh's offer for the shares be accepted, he said. The purchase will not cover the steel-plate department of the plant which is to be an independent company.

It was reported that Solel Boneh paid IL200,000 for the shares.

MARGILAN NEWS

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are prepared to accept the moment's notice "to foil any attempt by Israel to divert the waters of the Jordan at the Eilat Ya'acov Bridge," an official spokesman stated in Jerusalem yesterday. The source revealed to the Old City daily "El Jihad" that preparations for such an eventuality had been completed a year ago and if implemented "not one drop of Jordan water will flow into Israel."

NO PLAN

(Continued from Page One)

They do not truly grasp the root of the matter, and they have no idea of the real situation. They lack the sovereign capacity to think ahead to create a new mood of public opinion and to organize the initiative of the free world.

It has been painful to write this report, and I certainly do not wish to be associated with the current view of the Aseop brothers that the Western world is doomed. There is no reason why British and American leaders should not have another conference in three or four months, and really try to get to grips with the grim facts of life. Next time, however, it is to be hoped that at least one delegation will have produced concrete plans for discussion in advance.

The absence of this pre-conference planning which was such a major factor in the success of the wartime Anglo-American conferences, must be adjudged the principal cause of the paltry results of this conference. If neither party to the conference has a plan prepared in advance, it is unlikely that any joint plan will emerge at the conclusion.

Time is running out but there is still some time left. Will it be used to advantage? And are the present leaders of the free world, President Eisenhower, Sir Anthony Eden, Mr. John Foster Dulles, and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd capable of using it effectively?

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Fernandel

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with Zsa Zsa Gabor

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English subtitles. Distributed by "Sunfilm," Tel Aviv.

What are the Progressives up to?

What's going on at Ashkelon?

SEE THIS WEEK'S

HERE & NOW

Oil Licence for Local Company Defended at Knesset Session

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

The issue of an oil-drilling concession to Naphtha, a company whose shares are held partially by Mekorot-Ampal and by other Histadrut enterprises, was defended in the Knesset yesterday by the Minister of Development, Mr. Mordechai Bentov.

The question was brought up in the form of three motions for the agenda — by Mr. Aryeh Ben-El-Mechaieq (Herut), Mr. Itzhak Rabin (Mapai), and Mr. Peretz Bernstein (General Zionists). It was referred to committee after a motion for debate was defeated over the votes of Herut and the General Zionists.

Mr. Ben-El-Mechaieq said that the licence had been issued with-out any public invitation for tenders. The company consisted of private investors and of the economic institutions of public bodies and of political parties; 80 per cent of the stockholders had no money of their own. It was strange that Mekorot and the Ashdod movements, who were in a serious financial situation, had suddenly found money to invest in an oil company.

Mr. Rabin said that he and his colleagues had been surprised to learn from the newspaper "Haaretz" that the company had been formed. He asked the Minister whether the company had been formed in the knowledge of Hapoel Hamizrabi, wanted to grant it shares in the new company.

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Better Benzine, Price to Rise

Jerusalem Post Staff

HAIFA, Wednesday.—Higher-octane benzine will be introduced as of February 15 due to a new "reformer unit" at the refineries here. Because of the IL600,000 cost of completing the unit, it is understood that the price of benzine will go up. Details are not yet known.

But the new fuel will lower transport expenses by improving the performance and efficiency of vehicles and, since it will lead to a higher benzine output at the refineries, it will also make imports unnecessary.

Meanwhile, it is learned that refined oil in Israel will cost more as of today due to increased tanker freight charges, which have doubled since December. However, as the Treasury has not ordered an increase in fuel prices, it is believed that the difference will be made up from the Equalization Fund, in order to keep prices steady.

MOBIL OIL MARKETS

NEW LUBRICANT

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA, Wednesday.—Watching two glass jars, one immersed in ice and the other in hot water, newsmen today saw the disciplined and uniform behaviour of a new type engine lubricating oil under conditions simulating cold and hot weather.

Experts of Mobil Oil Israel Ltd. performed the experiment to demonstrate the advantages to motorists of the new product, "Mobil oil special," developed by a multi-million dollar research project of the Society of Automotive Engineers in the U.S.

The new lubricant adds three octane numbers to petrol performance and thus saves on a car's running cost in some extreme cases up to 27 per cent. (The higher the petrol's octane number the greater its pulling power in a car engine and the greater its economic value). It also minimizes acid deposits that corrode engine parts and thus lengthens their life span, the oil experts said.

IL-7M, LESS

Currency in circulation dropped this week by IL1,678,944 to stand at IL185,128,140. Treasury bills, dropped by IL2,612,000 while foreign currency increased by IL263,068.

INTEREST RATE

The Knesset yesterday passed the final readings of the amendment to the Bank of Israel Law which extends the present law limiting the interest rate to nine per cent.

While the original bill, which passed its first reading on Tuesday, extended the nine per cent maximum indefinitely, the Finance Committee set a six-month time limit.

I.P.O. to Record Schumann

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—A second group of recordings is to be made next month by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Paul Klecki. Announcing this to the press today, Mr. Klecki said that four Schumann symphonies and some of his overtures are to be recorded for Columbia to mark the centenary of the composer's death which falls this year.

Among the works to be conducted by Paul Klecki this season, his third in this country, is a first performance in Israel of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, for which four radio-played "Wagner tubas" have been rented from abroad.

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There is nothing like a shared inheritance to set a family quarrelling; and the cooperative and private sectors in Israel industry

oil concessions were not in need of an additional cause for disagreement such as has been supplied by the findings of oil. Up to last September investment in oil was looked upon by many as a foolish waste of money as long as there were foreign oil companies willing to undertake the search. Since then, an extravagant risk has turned into a reasonably safe long-term investment, and no group with funds at its disposal wishes to be left out of the oil-rush.

Three parties, Hapoel Hamizrahi, the General Zionists, and Herut, two of which have taken no corporate part in this yet, protested in the Knesset yesterday against the announcement that concessions for two extremely promising areas had been provisionally allocated to the new Israeli company, Naphtha, whose capital has been contributed jointly by a number of Hapoel-affiliated groups, including Mekorot, the Water Company, an investment company connected with the General Zionists, the Weizmann Institute and private capital, some of it American-Jewish. For some weeks past objections have been raised against this company because it failed to offer any shares to the public, and thereby created the impression that it prefers to keep these until progress in drilling has been made and much higher prices can be obtained as has been the practice of most of the foreign companies, which have financed much of the work from such profits.

There has also been criticism of the fact that Mekorot has made a IL11 million investment in the venture. Mekorot has been operating with very large sums allocated by the Government for water development and it is considered that the new move is equivalent to participation by the government itself despite the current financial crisis, and despite the fact that the national Petroleum Law secures the lion's share of profit on oil in any case, and without the need to invest.

In the main, however, the protest was directed against the fact that the new company is to receive the concession at all without its having been offered to other groups. This protest should be read in conjunction with recent statements by Mr. Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Trade and Industry, but also ex-chairman of the Petroleum Board, former head of Mekorot, and the man largely responsible for the forming of the Naphtha group, that the foreign companies have not come up to expectation in the matter of quick prospecting and drilling and that it is likely that some concessions will not be renewed next summer, when the first three-year period of the concessions will end. These statements may have been misleading, in the sense that concessions are not due to be withdrawn where work has been begun, but that the overall area of concessions may be reduced where a single company now holds several concessions totalling more than three million dunams. It is reasonable enough that these enormous concessions, granted before oil was a reality in Israel, should now be cut down to proportions, a single company is likely to be able to exploit.

To some extent the present nervousness, which has been noticeable among the foreign companies operating in this country, is based on a move in Coalition politics which handed the Ministry of Development (and with it the chairmanship of the Petroleum Board) to Mapam, which has a long history of opposition on principle to the granting of concessions to foreign companies for the exploitation of natural resources. Oil policy is a major matter, however, and not decided by a single ministry; the danger at the present time is largely that there is a likelihood of the impression being created that we no longer seek foreign cooperation in the exploiting of our possible oil wealth, and that there may be discrimination against such companies. There could be no greater mistake. Not every drilling turns out as well as Hapoel, and Israel is still far from being able to rely on her own financial resources in this matter.

From the Memoirs of *Harry Truman*

U.S. COMES DOWN FOR PARTITION

ONE of our main problems was that Palestine was not ours to dispose of. It had been leased by the League of Nations to the British, and the British were, in fact, in possession of Palestine.

In my own mind, the aims and goals of the Zionists at this stage to set up a Jewish State were secondary to the more immediate problem of finding means to relieve the human misery of the displaced persons.

Since the diplomats were having so much trouble in agreeing on the scope and purpose of the proposed (Anglo-American) committee of inquiry, the matter was not taken up again until Attlee came to Washington in mid-November (1945). Out of these talks with Attlee there came an understanding with regard to Palestine. The British, finding that I was unwilling to change my earlier position (Mr. Truman wanted the inquiry to concentrate on immediate possibilities for increased immigration), accepted the scope of inquiry which the State Department had worked out for the Anglo-American Committee. I announced the agreement on November 13 (1945). At the same time, released the text of my letter to Attlee of August 31, when I had asked him to provide for entry into Palestine of 100,000 Jews.

Three Months' Work

The Commission began its work with public hearings in Washington on January 4, 1946, and then travelled to Europe and the Near East to study the situation on the spot. Its report was presented to me on April 22, 1946. The Commission recommended unanimously that 100,000 certificates be issued for immigration into Palestine and that actual immigration be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

As for Palestine, the Commission urged that it be made into a land in which neither Jew nor Arab would dominate. The Commission considered, however, that the relations of Jews and Arabs were at the present time such that any attempt to establish independence or to divide the land would result in civil strife. For that reason, they recommended that the Mandate be continued, that eventually there should be a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations, and that the terms of the trusteeship agreement should be such as to bring Jews and Arabs closer together.

The recommendations of the Commission included the proposal that full Jewish immigration be made possible and the land laws protecting the Arabs without giving equality of protection to the Jews be repealed or changed.

The Commission's report was careful and complete. On April 13 I issued a statement in which I expressed my agreement with the substance of their proposal. However, it remained now to persuade the British to take action on the report. They wanted assurances of the foreseeable difficulties as possible ironed out before any policy might be announced.

On May 10, 1946, Attlee said that the British were agreeable to consultations with the Jews and Arabs be initiated as quickly as possible. He pointed out, however, that the British were at that moment engaged in important and delicate negotiations with Egypt and suggested a postponement until May 20 or later.

I could appreciate Attlee's problems, even though I was unwilling to admit the necessity for further delay. I decided, therefore, that I would accede to his wish to delay the communications to the Arabs and Jews until May 20, but then I wanted to see the entire problem pushed forward with dispatch. On May 16 I held a long conference with Dean Acheson about the Palestine matter, following which I sent this message to Attlee:

"I have given careful consideration to your message concerning Palestine and am pleased to note your feeling regarding close collaboration between our two Governments. We are proceeding with dispatch to the Arabs and Jews on that the communications to them may be made on May 20."

"I regard question of studies to be made by experts of the two Governments with respect to certain matters arising out of the report, we are exercising an appropriate group from among officials of this Government."

The official reaction in England to the report of the Anglo-American Commission was not encouraging. As soon as it was published, Clement Attlee told the House of Commons that, cabled me on May 27, sending



Violence flared up in this country while discussions were going on abroad. Here Hagana and Jewish Civil Guard squads are shown working round the clock digging into the rubble of the Atlantic Hotel on Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda street, where an explosion set off by persons sent by a British pro-Zionist group claimed 47 dead and nearly 150 wounded on February 22, 1948. On February 1—eight years ago yesterday—it was the "Palestine Post" building that was bombed, killing four.

before taking any action on the report, his Government would ask the U.S. to share the additional military and financial responsibilities that he thought would arise. He also said that large-scale immigration into Palestine would not be resumed until the illegal Jewish armed units were eliminated.

The British Press, in the weeks to follow, set a tone that was decidedly unfriendly. Many of them said or implied what Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, later said in a speech on June 12—that our interest in helping the Jews enter Palestine was due to our desire not to have them in the United States.

U.S. Won't Use Army

I realized that it would be difficult to get action from the British, but while there was much clamour in the U.S. that something be done, the country was neither disposed nor prepared to assume risks and obligations that might require us to use military force.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff were also of the opinion that carrying out the findings of the report by force would prejudice British and U.S. interests in much of the Middle East. And if this were to happen, they suggested that the U.S.S.R. might replace the U.S. and Britain in influence and power through the Middle East.

The British Prime Minister, cabled me on May 27, sending me a catalogue of subjects which he thought should be taken up when the experts of our two Governments sat down together. Out of the 10 recommendations of the Commission, the British had built up no less than 48 "subjects" which they felt needed discussion by the experts. My reaction was that this procedure would only serve to postpone any relief for the 100,000 homeless Jews that we still wanted to see admitted into Palestine.

I replied therefore that that problem should be taken up without delay, even before the experts might be ready to go into the other subjects listed by the British. I offered assistance for the admission of these 100,000 to the land they wanted to make their home.

The Prime Minister's reply to my proposal was negative. The British did not want to discuss the admission of the 100,000 immigrants without talking about all aspects of the Palestine problem. In my answer I told Attlee that I could appreciate his point of view but that I could not see how it could be possible to make any arrangements for the admission of the 100,000 at further delay once the experts had reached agreement on the more general questions.

The British, because of the violence in Palestine, were anxious to get the discussions of the joint committee under way as soon as possible. I accommodated Attlee in this matter by sending (to the American) a report over on July 10, a week earlier than had been planned, and by making the Presidential decision available to get them there.

During the two weeks that followed, this joint cabinet com-

mission sat and deliberated in London. Leaks apparently developed, and on July 25 the American Press published a fairly detailed account of the recommendations of the committee.

In substance, the plan proposed by the committee was the creation in Palestine of something resembling a federal system of two autonomous states but with a very strong central government. Approximately 1,500 square miles (of a total of 45,000) were to become a Jewish state. The central government would retain control of the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, as well as of the Negev. The remainder of Palestine would become an Arab state.

Most importantly, however, the plan provided that the central government would have reserved powers of such extent that the two states to be set up would have very little control over anything except wholly local matters. Included among subjects that the central government would be empowered to regulate were:

The government of the provinces would consist of elected assemblies, but the speakers of these assemblies would be appointed by the British and no bill would become law without the assent of these appointed officials. The Executive would also be appointed by the British, in the form of a council of ministers.

Neither the Jews nor the Arabs welcomed this plan. It satisfied nobody. The plan made the admission of the 100,000 conditional on its being accepted by the Arabs, so no relief was offered in that direction either. Nor was this the kind of plan that I had hoped would result.

It seemed a retreat from the fine recommendations that had been made by the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry earlier in the year. I therefore felt compelled to inform Attlee that the Government of the United States could not go along.

The opposition in this country to the plan has become so intense that it is now clear it would be impossible to rally in favour of it sufficient public opinion to enable this Government to give it effective support."

Attlee sent a detailed reply on August 18, observing that it was a great disappointment to him that we were unable to give support to the plan recommended by the expert delegations.

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Years of Trial and Hope

More Labour MP's Backing Israel's Stand

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM

LONDON.

PARLIAMENTARY debates are an odd mixture of the trivial and the world-shaking. This is especially true of an assembly like the House of Commons which has preserved an informal club atmosphere and allows plenty of scope for displays of personal idiosyncrasy. A speaker's manner becomes familiar, and the habitues are more concerned with "form" than with what he may have to say, whether he is the Prime Minister of the day, or some well-known backbencher.

Even so serious a paper as the "Manchester Guardian" fills its parliamentary columns with expert criticism of the star performers, for example, to contrast the Prime Minister's leadership with the old Attlee-Morrison team — not with a view to bringing out the obvious differences between one generation and the next, but in the context of this particular debate, which after all may affect the course of events.

It was enlightening to watch how the Opposition ranks responded to the vigorous lead they were being given, particularly since this involved not merely criticism of the Government's Middle Eastern policy in general, but a surprisingly strong emotional response to the Soviet threat to Israel's existence. It is not doing some of the older Labour leaders an injustice to say that they never displayed the detailed grasp of the situation to which the Opposition is now being accustomed by its leaders — and by the growing number of backbenchers who have recently been to see for themselves. Among the latter Mr. Percy Daines was especially impressive in a blunt, forthright manner, while Mr. Crossman, new for the first time, spoiled the effect of an interesting though rather lengthy speech by extravagance and by dragging in too many irrelevant details.

Israel's most effective defender in this Parliament are sturdy scientists and middle-readers, rather than the House of Commons. It is a roadblock rather than the main problem which a succession of speakers diagnosed as Arab nationalism — not a very illuminating discovery, but yet relatively important in an assembly where it is still possible for backwoods Tories to talk as if "firm government" in Iraq and Jordan were all that is needed. If Israel nonetheless dominated the debate from start to finish, the reason is quite simply that the Labour Party has established an emotional identification with it.

The strength of this identification was one of the more surprising discoveries of this discussion — surprising most of all those who remember the Bevin period. This aspect of the matter did not obtain much prominence in the expert reporting on the following day; but then the habit, as a remarked before, tend to be distracted by their peculiar form of "shop." It was not a great debate, but in some ways it was a moving one.

Israel, however, was recognized on both sides of the House to be a roadblock rather than the main problem which a succession of speakers diagnosed as Arab nationalism — not a very illuminating discovery, but yet relatively important in an assembly where it is still possible for backwoods Tories to talk as if "firm government" in Iraq and Jordan were all that is needed. If Israel nonetheless dominated the debate from start to finish, the reason is quite simply that the Labour Party has established an emotional identification with it.

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KEEPING POSTED

IN the early days of flying every passenger was a V.I.P. They were surrounded with an air of privilege and beautiful they would choose to fly again next time, despite the prejudice that still existed at that time against locomotion with no visible means of support. Now people mean of support. Now people mean of support. Now people mean of support.

Two returned travellers reported that while they managed well enough in the two-sided section and slept on each other's shoulders, two men on the other side got fed up with their stout neighbours and began to pace up and down looking for better seats. When they discovered there was not a spare seat on the plane they decided to strap-hang, and spent the entire journey from Rome to Lyda standing up and holding on to the luggage rack and, of course, talking. Before the passengers settled down for this particular trip there was a little trouble over an enormous and heavy object that lay propped up in one of the seats. The owner claimed it was a marble statue and would certainly break if it was left on the floor, but the steward decided it would be the cost of air transport for it was greater than for a regular passenger.

ARE your geraniums doing satisfactorily in your window-box? Two students at Anna Maria University in Madras claim that they have stimulated the growth of Mimosa Pudica (the Sensitive Plant) — a kind of mimosa — by playing the violin to it. Their experiment has been

fully reported in a paper read to the International Botanical Congress in Paris. It is stated that on Indian tune called Naya-Ma-Ga-Ga-Raga was played to the plants for exactly 25 minutes a day. A control group of plants was kept under similar conditions, but out of earshot of the violin. The musical soundings developed 35 per cent more prickles and their branches grew half as long again as the control seedlings. The students explain that the music stimulates the flow of protoplasm in the plants' cells. It may also be the long-sought explanation of the fact that musicians' hands are to be longer than that of people in other occupations.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that she was happy to hear that Mr. Eshkol intends to give some import-duty relief on bona fide gifts from abroad, which have in the past sometimes proved such a burden on the recipient. If he will look in the Book of Proverbs, she recommends, he will find ample support for this attitude, and offers:

"Better is little with righteousness Than great revenues with injustice."

"GASPS and applause" accompanied the showing of the first Cinemascope 35 film to an audience of 3,000 representatives of the trade in New York. People who already find it difficult to watch the whole of a screen that is about as wide as Zion Square will be glad to know that the new 30th Century-Fox process will not introduce wider screens still, and cause them to come away with stiff necks like after watching an exciting tennis match — we ourselves have often missed the critical action in a film as a result of looking at the far corner of the picture at the time. There is to be a "vast photographic area," however, all of it completely in focus and "an increased sense of audience participation." When you consider how unpleasant, if not

downright dangerous, life appears to be in most films, who wants to participate?

Today's contributors include T. Bloom, Ramal Gan and F.D.

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